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COLOR OF CASES

IN the Art Institute collections black cases have long been used for the installation of antique vases, metals, ivories and other objects of art. This has been the general practice in American museums and in the foreign museums before them, and if only one color is to be used, black is perhaps the safest.

Lately, with the increase of the collections, we have begun to adopt other colors. Some change is agreeable of itself, and objects of certain kinds make a better appearance when set against certain tones. The cases and frames in the Egyptian Collection, Gallery 16, are of weathered oak. This is a decided improvement on the former absolute black. The cases of the Gunsaulus Collection of old Wedgwood are of white mahogany, very graceful cases of the Adam

period, formerly used in a private collection.

In the Antiquarian Collection, newly installed, which includes a great deal of rich color in textiles, tiles and polychrome sculpture, the cases are finished in a gold bronze of rough surface, not unlike old Japanese lacquer. This finish, so far as we know, is peculiar to our museum and is the invention of one of our own employees. It leaves little to be desired as an accompaniment of the rich colors of the Antiquarian Collection. All the cases shown in the illustration on page 57 are of this old gold finish.

The picture frames in the Hutchinson Gallery of Old Masters, Room 32, are all black, after the Demidoff pattern. Experiments are in progress with a view to changing these frames to old gold.

NOTES

ANNUAL AMERICAN EXHIBITION — The date of the Annual Exhibition of American Oil Paintings and Sculpture next autumn will be earlier than last year on account of the biennial Corcoran Exhibition at Washington. The exhibition in Chicago will be from Tuesday, Nov. 3 to Sunday, Dec. 8. It will be possible for artists to send pictures successively to the important exhibitions in St. Louis, Buffalo, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

PURCHASE PRIZES—The Art Institute from time to time has been indebted to many friends for prizes to be awarded in the exhibitions for the encouragement of artists. A good form of encouragement which is growing in favor is the establishment of purchase prizes, by which

the paintings honored are actually bought and presented to the public schools or other worthy organizations. Such prizes must usually be of the value of \$200 or more.

FISCAL YEAR—The fiscal year of the Art Institute has always been reckoned from June 1 to June 1. The reasons which led to the adoption of this date at the time of organization do not now exist, and the Executive Committee has recommended an amendment to the By-Laws making the Art Institute year coincide with the calendar year. After the year 1914 "the Annual Meeting of the Governing Members will be held on the second Tuesday of January in each year" and "regular meetings of the Board of Trustees will be held upon the first